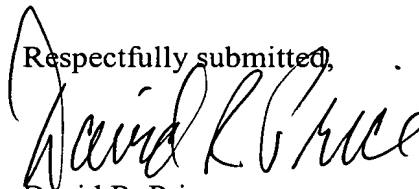


**Remarks**

This preliminary amendment is made to conform to U.S. practice and to remove multiple dependencies from the claims. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
David R. Price  
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No. 0433153-9099-00

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